

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A waterproof electrical connector, comprising:

a base housing having a plurality of terminal chambers and an internal space defined by a perimeter wall located behind the plurality of terminal chambers;

a rear cover configured to engage with the base housing to seal the internal space, the rear cover having a plurality of thru-holes;

a flexible plug that extends from an inner surface of the rear cover, the flexible plug being configured to be inserted into the internal space, and including ribs formed on an outer peripheral surface of the flexible plug;

the flexible plug having a plurality of thru-holes, the rear cover thru-holes and the flexible plug thru-holes being configured to concentrically align with the plurality of terminal chambers; and

the flexible plug having a channel formed on an inserting surface of the flexible plug, the channel being located between outermost flexible plug thru-holes and the outer peripheral surface of the flexible plug.

2. (Original) The waterproof electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the channel is formed as a continuous loop.

3. (Original) The waterproof electrical connector according to claim 1, further comprising an inner housing that is installed within the internal space, the inner housing having a plurality of thru-holes that concentrically align with the plurality of terminal chambers, the plurality of flexible plug thru-holes and the plurality of rear cover thru-holes.

4. (Original) The waterproof electrical connector according to claim 3, further comprising a first engaging portion provided in at least one of the plurality of inner housing thru-holes, the first engaging portion being configured to engage with a second engaging portion provided on a wire terminal attached to an end of an electrical wire when the wire terminal is inserted into the terminal chamber.

5. (Original) The waterproof electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the flexible plug is made from a resilient elastomer and the rear cover is made from a hard synthetic resin, the flexible plug and the rear cover being integrated as a single piece by double-molding.

6 - 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A waterproof electrical connector, comprising:

a base housing having a plurality of terminal chambers and an internal space defined by a perimeter wall located behind the plurality of terminal chambers;

a rear cover configured to engage with the base housing to seal the internal space, the rear cover having a plurality of thru-holes;

a flexible plug that extends from an inner surface of the rear cover, the flexible plug being configured to be inserted into the internal space, and including ribs formed on an outer peripheral surface of the flexible plug; and

the flexible plug having a plurality of thru-holes, the rear cover thru-holes and the flexible plug thru-holes being configured to concentrically align with the plurality of terminal chambers;

wherein the flexible plug is configured such that upon insertion of the flexible plug within the base housing, the plurality of flexible plug thru-holes remain substantially concentrically aligned with the plurality of terminal chambers despite constrictive pressure applied by the perimeter wall to the flexible plug upon insertion,

wherein the flexible plug has a channel formed on an inserting surface of the flexible plug, and the channel is located between outermost flexible plug thru-holes and the outer peripheral surface of the flexible plug so that the channel is closed upon insertion of the flexible plug within the base housing to absorb the constrictive pressure applied by the

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perimeter wall to the flexible plug upon insertion.

24-28 (Canceled)